

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 21

January 12, 2021

SUMMARY OF BILL: Prohibits the Governor and each local government from consenting to receive any refugees for purposes of resettlement within the state. Establishes a process by which local governments may consent to accept refugees for resettlement.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- Executive Order 13888 of September 26, 2019, provides that refugees may be resettled only in U.S. jurisdictions where both the state and local governments have provided their written consent.
- On December 18, 2019, the Governor of Tennessee consented to initial refugee resettlement in Tennessee per the terms of Executive Order 13888. In addition, according to the Tennessee Office for Refugees, Davidson County, Hamilton County, Knox County, and Shelby County consented to such resettlement within their boundaries.
- The proposed legislation requires the Governor to refuse to consent to receive any refugees for resettlement, and:
 - Requires a local government to adopt, by a two-thirds majority, a resolution outlining the number of refugees to be received and the locations where accepted refugees would be resettled within the jurisdiction, if the local government wants to consent to receiving refugees;
 - Requires the local government to notify each member of its legislative delegation of the resolution's adoption;
 - Authorizes a member of the General Assembly to propose legislation authorizing the local government to consent to receive refugees for resettlement;
 - Requires any proposed legislation to specify the amount of state funds authorized for the purpose of assisting refugees covered by the legislation;
 - Requires the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DLWD) to provide an estimate of the number of jobs Tennesseans may lose to refugees as a result of passage of the legislation; and
 - Prohibits a local government from consenting to receive refugees unless legislation is passed by a two-thirds majority in each house.

- Any vote required of a local legislative body will be conducted at a regularly scheduled meeting.
- Any action authorized or required of the General Assembly will be conducted during a regular legislative session.
- Any fiscal impact to state or local government will occur as a result of the passage of future legislation.
- No significant fiscal impact to the DLWD.
- Any fiscal impact to state or local government as a result of establishing the proposed process is estimated to be not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bojan Savic". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bojan Savic, Interim Executive Director

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